

The invention in which an exclusive right is claimed is defined by the following:

1. A method of enabling an organization to control user assignments and assessment results while enabling a proprietary provider to maintain control over distribution of proprietary content through an electronic network and over use of a proprietary assessment function, comprising the steps of:

(a) enabling the organization to provide an assignment to a user through a browser in communication with a learning management system (LMS) controlled by the organization, the assignment requiring the user to interact with the proprietary content through the browser;

(b) providing the browser with a link to the LMS, the link indicating access to the proprietary content that is controlled by the proprietary provider;

(c) upon activation of the link in the browser by the user, communicating a request for the proprietary content to the LMS;

(d) accessing a proprietary content uniform resource locator (URL) identifying a location of the proprietary content at a proprietary network node controlled by the proprietary provider;

(e) causing the LMS to provide a message back to the browser, the message including hidden data and the proprietary content URL, the message causing the browser to automatically request the proprietary content from the proprietary network node at the proprietary content URL; and

(f) causing the proprietary provider to return the proprietary content to the browser so that the user can interact with the proprietary content.

2. The method of Claim 1, wherein the proprietary content comprises at least one of text data, graphics data, audio data, and learning assessment data.

3. The method of Claim 1, wherein the request for the proprietary content and the message each comprise a hidden hypertext markup language data form.

4. The method of Claim 1, wherein at least one of:

- (a) the request includes the proprietary content URL; and
- (b) the message includes a results receiver URL identifying a location to which the proprietary provider is to send the assessment results indicating the user's interaction with the proprietary content.

5. The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of providing to the browser a quit link to the LMS, wherein the quit link comprises an early termination URL identifying a location of the LMS to which the browser is redirected by the proprietary network node if the user chooses to return to interacting with the LMS without submitting any information to the proprietary network node.

6. The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of providing to the browser a submit link to the proprietary assessment function controlled by the proprietary provider, wherein the submit link comprises a results receiver URL identifying a location of a results receiver that is controlled by the organization and that is to receive the assessment results generated by the proprietary assessment function as a result of the user's interaction with the proprietary content.

7. The method of Claim 6, further comprising the steps of:

- (a) upon activation of the submit link, communicating a results request for the assessment results from the browser to the proprietary assessment function, the results request including the results receiver URL; and
- (b) causing the proprietary assessment function to generate the assessment results and to provide a result message back to the browser, the result message including the assessment results and the results receiver URL, and the result message causing the browser to automatically communicate the assessment results to the results receiver at the results receiver URL.

8. The method of Claim 7, further comprising the steps of:
 - (a) causing the proprietary results provider to at least one of:
 - (i) digitally sign the assessment results prior to causing the proprietary assessment function to provide the result message back to the browser; and
 - (ii) encrypt the assessment results prior to causing the proprietary assessment function to provide the result message back to the browser; and
 - (b) causing the results receiver to authenticate the digitally signed assessment results.
9. The method of Claim 7, wherein the assessment results comprise at least one of an indication that the user interacted with the proprietary content and an evaluation of the user's performance in interacting with the proprietary content.
10. A memory medium on which are stored machine instructions for carrying out the steps of Claim 1.
11. A memory medium on which are stored machine instructions for carrying out the steps of Claim 7.

12. A system for enabling an organization to control user assignments and assessment results while enabling a proprietary provider to maintain control over distribution of proprietary content through an electronic network and over use of a proprietary assessment function, wherein a user has coupled in communication with the system to obtain an assignment, comprising:

- (a) a processor;
- (b) a network interface in communication with the processor and the electronic network; and

- (c) a memory in communication with the processor, the memory storing machine instructions that cause the processor to carry out a plurality of functions, including:

- (i) in response to a user selecting an assignment, communicating an assignment web page that includes assignment information to a browser of a user, the assignment information being associated with a link to the proprietary content that is disposed at a remote location;

- (ii) in response to a user selection in the assignment web page, transmitting an instruction to redirect the browser to an address where the proprietary content is accessible at a proprietary network node; and

- (iii) receiving a message from the browser, said message including proprietary data indicating results of a user interacting with the proprietary content, the results being one of hidden from a user and not hidden from a user.

13. The system of Claim 12, wherein the proprietary content comprises at least one of text data, graphics data, audio data, and learning assessment data.

14. The system of Claim 12, wherein the instruction to redirect the browser and the message from the browser each comprise a hypertext markup language data form.

15. The system of Claim 12, wherein the machine instructions further cause the processor to carry out the function of providing to the browser a submit link, wherein the submit link comprises a results receiver URL identifying a location of a results receiver module of the machine instructions that receives the message from the browser, the message including the proprietary data.

16. The system of Claim 12, wherein the machine instructions further cause the processor to carry out at least one of the functions of:

- (a) validating a digital signature applied by the proprietary provider to the proprietary data of the message received from the browser; and
- (b) decrypting the message received from the browser.

17. The system of Claim 12, wherein the proprietary data comprise at least one of an indication that the user interacted with the proprietary content and an evaluation of the user's performance in interacting with the proprietary content.

18. A method for controlling distribution of proprietary data through an electronic network and controlling use of a proprietary function that assesses a user's interaction with the proprietary data, comprising the steps of:

- (a) providing a proprietary data uniform resource locator (URL) to a user management system that interfaces with a user over the electronic network through a browser;
- (b) receiving a request from the browser for access to the proprietary data, wherein the request was initiated by the user management system and redirected through the browser to the proprietary data URL;
- (c) communicating the proprietary data to the browser;
- (d) receiving from the browser an indication of the user's interaction with the proprietary data through the browser; and

(e) performing the proprietary function based on the indication of the user's interaction with the proprietary data to assess the user's interaction with the proprietary data.

19. The method of Claim 18, wherein the indication of the user's interaction with the proprietary data comprises responses to tasks presented to the user in the proprietary data.

20. The method of Claim 18, further comprising the steps of:

(a) producing results data based on the performance of the proprietary function; and

(b) communicating the results data to the browser with an instruction to the browser to redirect the results data to the user management system.